



**Coconino County Board of Supervisors**

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## Coconino County Fair Goes Tobacco Free

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — FLAGSTAFF, AZ – The Coconino County Fair has long been a community tradition in Northern Arizona, but one aspect of that tradition is changing this year: the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Coconino County Fair (held Sept. 4-7) will be a tobacco free event. While the Fair has had a smoking area inside the event in years past, those wishing to smoke or chew this year will be required to use a smoking area located outside of the Fair. Anyone exiting the Fair can return the same day with a hand stamp.

According to the Coconino County Public Health Services District, becoming a tobacco free event and providing a tobacco free environment limits health risks that result from exposure to second hand smoke, reduces environmental impact related to litter and fire danger, and prevents normalization of smoking/tobacco use. The County Fair is a family friendly environment with many kids in attendance. When people smoke in environments such as these, it leads to the assumption that many more people use tobacco than the less than 20% that actually do, helping make it more socially acceptable.

A 2014 Smoke-Free Parks Study found that secondhand smoke concentrations in outdoor areas are comparable to those found indoors, and that smoking regulations in public places can significantly reduce both the number of cigarettes consumed by youth and the overall prevalence of tobacco use. Also from the study, more than 900 cities and counties nationwide have banned smoking in public parks.

Coconino County Parks and Recreation (CCPR) hopes that by initiating a tobacco free event, to decrease the exposure of second hand smoke by Fairgoers of all ages, and provide a safe, healthy environment for all.

Tobacco free includes cigarettes, cigars, pipes, hookah pipes, and electronic-cigarettes.

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